



PRESENTATION

delivered by the President of the Slovak Republic

H.E. Ms. Zuzana ČAPUTOVÁ

Climate Action Summit 2019

Convened by the Secretary-General

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are living the best times in history, enjoy enormous progress, but we forgot to pay the bill. We are in debt to this planet. We are the first generation that feels the impact of our reckless actions. And we may be the last one that can do something about it.

To name just one thing that worries me the most, than it is the denial, that the climate crisis exists or is in no way serious. To address the climate crisis while living in this denial, will lead to our failure.

We need to globally define new rules and their enforcement. We need rapid and profound change of policy, in how we do business, produce power, manage transport, make investments, protect biodiversity and manage natural resources. To change our lifestyle.

Let me be concrete: in Slovakia we made a politically unthinkable decision to close our coal mines. It will need a serious transformation of part of our country. To give people new jobs, open new businesses and create new opportunities.

We already produce 80% of our energy low on carbon. We are on the way to increase emission reduction from 40% to 45% by 2030. We committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Just few days ago, we made a decision to allocate additional 2.5 billion Euro for climate investments by 2030. Internationally we contribute to the Green Climate Fund. We support the plan of the European Union to make Europe the first carbon neutral continent. Moreover, we are part of the climate initiative of Austrian President Van der Bellen. [No matter how small or big we are we all can contribute without waiting for others to start].

We must make sure that in the end everybody can benefit from climate action. It will be successful only if it will increase the well-being and dignity of all people, in particular those most vulnerable.

Finally, I believe that if we succeed to unite on our climate action, we can generate new sense of solidarity and common good. It can help restore international system, overcome divisions, and bring new opportunities in areas of peace and development.

Because protecting our environment means being human.